

# Territorial differences in Latin America

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## ABSTRACT

The persistent levels of poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean, related to the unequal distribution of income and low and volatile growth rates of economies, impose limitations on the exercise of economic and social implications of large swathes of the population. Growth through productive development is a necessary but not sufficient to resolve this complex situation, and although the level of social spending (which has a positive trend in the recent past) is relevant, its quality is also important.

## INTRODUCTION

Regional economic disparities as a public policy issue are the initial and central theme of this work. Its relevance is that this is perhaps the key point that since the field of economics is done on regional development and often overlook his obvious efforts to build the theoretical basis and justification to take these differences as a policy problem public. We aim to set benchmarks and criteria that enable a critical discussion on the topic, analyzing the past, present and future.

We start with a question about the meaning of the concept of disparity, framed by its context more fundamental: the ethics and politics. The question of disparities makes sense when one notes that contemporary societies adopt ideals like equality and equity. Because the meaning of these principles evolves over time, it is essential to try to update in the specific context of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Later, they address the same question about the meaning of this concept from the perspective of the dimension of scientific knowledge, a complementary field which mixes values and reasons for, while attempts to explain the origin and evolution of disparities also offer arguments to label as desirable, inconvenience or indifferent. In summary form but comprehensive reasoning and arguments provided by different social sciences to explain changes that entail regional disparities.

The interplay between economics (social science) and politics of these disparities is analyzed by the Latin American historical tradition in the process of creating a colourful world of policies related to territorial development, regional and urban development, decentralization, local economic development more recently, land use.

As a result of this journey, it defines the field of the concerns of the political economy of regional economic disparities which identifies an initial definition of local economic development policies.

## ETHICAL AND POLITICAL BASIS OF THE CONCERN ABOUT THE DISPARITIES

The idea of equality, which assumes the role of political reference, social ethics and contemporary, comes with the liberal bourgeois revolutions (Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, 1789) and consolidated with the formation of the United Nations and the Declaration Universal Human Rights of 10 December 1948.

As a whole, these rights are embodied in the notion of development, understood as socially constructed benchmark and target to achieve. In the first equality was proclaimed primarily as political rights: "Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may be based only on common utility.

This Bill founded the pillars of modern democracy: law as an expression of general will, the security forces as a means of guaranteeing the basic rights, the need for joint contributions to the functioning of public power and the right to monitor and control latter.

The General Assembly proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, so that both individuals and institutions are constantly inspired.

From this idea of equality based on ethical and political principles proclaimed as universal, produced scientific concerns are triggered by situations that contradict the established pattern (inequality, discrimination, difference) whose origin and evolution attempts to explain by delivering on its value (convenience / inconvenience) and discussing ways to intervene in them, the potential costs of an intervention and the desired and obtained. Changes in spatial distribution of population (migration, urbanization), economic activity and wealth entering this set of concerns, especially after the thirties, they begin to take shape and take form theories and policies regional and urban development.

The regional economic disparities, that is, permanent differences in the levels and rates of economic growth and development of sub national units is assumed as a legitimate scientific and political concern, while considered an extension of fundamental concern for equality and freedom of individuals.

In the first approach to this dilemma there are two legal traditions with different approaches: the USA and Europe. In the political tradition of the United States has prevailed defending the right to freedom of movement and motion of the individual within the national territory as the main guarantee of the principle of equality, ensuring everyone free access to development opportunities . In the European tradition supported the legitimacy and importance of territorial aspirations in development conditions, without ignoring the importance of freedom of movement as a means of guaranteeing the principle of equality. In this case, seeks to provide the means for collective subjects are equivalents development options.

However, when translated into a lack of possibilities of renewal and change, cause stagnation and poverty and become an obstacle. In response to expected and unexpected effects of the implementation of the liberal doctrine of equality, social thinking has added the principle of solidarity

as essential accompaniment of these processes. There is the distinction between equality and equity: while waiting for all individuals equal access to basic universal rights, not economic performance is expected the same for all (egalitarianism), but are intended to permit equal opportunity for get maximum performance (equity).

A second dilemma comes from the location that has traditionally been given to regional policy as part of social policy. In the text of regional and urban economy is often posed justification for regional policy, understood as the intervention from the central state in order to even out regional disparities in growth and development, for reasons of equity, not efficiency. According to the above, it is customary to place regional policy side of social policies. However, there is debate on whether, based on the level of acquired characteristics, regional disparities produce an overall economic inefficiency, and loss on capacity growth and wellness.

These two fundamental dilemmas are the ethical bases of local economic development policies. However, the new Latin American realities and individuals require further specification effort because the concept of inequality seems insufficient to account for such aspirations for territorial equity and regional policy is justified not only for reasons of equity but also efficiency and economic stability.

## **THE IDEA OF INEQUALITY IN THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTEXT**

In Latin American constitutional law explicitly recognizes the need to arbitrate between individual freedom and collective right. At territorial level, this recognition is reflected in a number of constitutions in the continent who have chosen to assign roles and social purposes to the right to private property in general and land in particular.

The new collective rights (environmental, ethnic, cultural and urban) that have clear and direct consequences on the territory and the management criteria and management, strategic part of the ongoing debate about equity and equality in the continent. In environmental matters, for example, is worth noting that in Latin American constitutions there is a general tendency to define natural resources as state property, which is complemented by a recognition, but also less frequent constitutional law, social law to enjoy a healthy environment. In terms of ethnic and cultural arise constitutional declarations aimed to recognize the legitimacy of the multicultural training of nationalities and guarantee the means for their preservation and development.

This award expresses a particularity of the continent America: ethnic and cultural pluralism. Although not generally, in urban areas can see the emergence of the city (area) as a collective right. The recent economic progress, technological and institutional new strategic areas do emerge that transform the social distribution of the conditions of access to new goods and services critical, demanding political and technical attention and even modify the notion of territory. In recent times have been particularly important example of Brazil which is a typical case where a large and complex social movement accompanies the emergence and implementation of the Charter of the City, which seeks to regulate the use of urban property for the public good collective security and the welfare of citizens and environmental balance. It also establishes that urban policy is to order the full development of the social functions of the city and property through basic guidelines such as ensuring

the right to sustainable cities, democratic management, planning of the spatial distribution people and economic activities and the fair distribution of benefits arising from urbanization.

Equally important are advances in information, telecommunications and knowledge production, which in turn give rise to new forms of inequality and exclusion. Thus, the universe of corporate assets need to consider expanding and becoming more complex.

## **REGIONAL ECONOMIC DISPARITIES: A MATTER OF EFFICIENCY AND STABILITY**

The most obvious expression of territorial inequality urban concentration. The estimated economic cost caused by the excess (or lack) of urban concentration, with levels above (or below) of a historical pattern, you may lose up to 1.5 percentage points of GDP per capita over the medium term . The figures for Latin America and the Caribbean are located to the region in a particularly disadvantageous position because of a total of 72 countries, 30 have satisfactory urban concentration levels, 24 showed excessive levels, 16 have too low and 2 did not exhibit an identifiable pattern. The distribution of Latin American countries in different groups is very particular: a total of 14, only 3 (Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador) have a satisfactory level of concentration, 11 (Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay) exhibit an excessive concentration and none shows a very low concentration.

Moreover, we must mention the importance for Latin America and the Caribbean, the relationship between regional disparities in growth and stability. In the region there is more scatter among developed countries because their business cycles are less volatile. What remains clear is how the relationships of causality between these two variables as stability operations in some cases as a cause of regional disparities and in others as a result.

From a higher level of development, the best concentration level reaches a peak after which it begins to descend with income growth. The relative macroeconomic stability in Colombia can be explained in part by regional diversity, for a better relative balance in the territorial distribution of population and a higher level of spatial deconcentration of economic activity. It further provides statistical inverse relationship exists between economic volatility and spatial decentralization of the population.

The interest in regional economic disparities is based on the search for equality and freedom, typical of modern humanism. To these universal rights have been joined by other collective aspirations: to a healthy environment, information and telecommunications and the city. Moreover, the Latin American societies and increasingly recognized as a multicultural and, together with the aspirations of equality, with increasing firmness claim the right to difference. Equality in the difference appears to be the watchword contemporary Latin American, in a time when the homogeneity and uniformity cease to be the essential prerequisite of the unit. The way disparities affect the individual possibilities of access to basic rights is of general but not universal rules and depends on the specific conditions of operation of the institutions and economy of each country and how to understand the relationship between individual and collective rights. The particular combination of the right to equality and the right to difference derived from free and sovereign decisions taken by each nation and each state.

While disparities are often conceived as a limitation to the social aspirations of equality, justice and solidarity, also associated with basic economic aims and aspirations, such as growth and stability.

## THE SOCIOECONOMIC DISPARITIES

The interest in understanding and explaining the differences in performance and dynamism among countries, regions and cities, and identify ways and means of intervention, stems from the lack of uniformity and constant changes in population distribution production and wealth in physical space. The political theory and conceptualize the heterogeneity of forms and dynamics as regional economic disparities.

The factors that explain these inequalities vary depending on the time horizon of interest note: great epochs and civilizations, economic periods belonging to a certain time, short periods or specific joints within a certain period, moments of crisis and transition. There are several units of observation and analysis of these changes. The city, the urban and urbanization processes have been considered with special attention as catalysts for territorial change phenomena and revealing of its main forms of evolution in terms of cycles, trends and great times. From year 0 to 1300 of the Christian era, the number of individuals in the world doubled. 1300 to 1800 the urbanization rate remained stable, although it also doubled the number of people in less than two centuries, from 1800 to 1980 - the population has grown by twenty and the urbanization rate increased from 9% to 38% ".

## INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES

The industrialization and urbanization of modern times have been accompanied by an incessant increase in inequality in levels of wealth among nations. This secular trend is valid in itself and its sequence is defined by the immediate relation of cause and effect, the cycle is marked by the presence of the situation as a moment of change and stability based secular trend in the presence of structures that replace each other transiting through times of crisis.

The distance between countries, measured as the quotient of GDP per capita of the richest country by the poorest, was 1.5 at the beginning of the industrial revolution, remained in the same magnitude during the period 1872 to 1876 and reached 3.4 in 1913 to 5.2 in 1950 and 7.7 in policies and heterogeneity 1977. Las linking groups of countries, arises mainly from the combination of two contradictory processes: the decrease of the differences between developed countries and increasing disparities between them and developing nations.

These contrasts and nuances are closely linked with the properties of the spatial organization of capitalism. The world-economy covers only a portion of the planet and set up a unit with its own characteristics which occupies a given space, that is, has limits that explain and vary rather slowly, always accepts a pole or centre, represented initially by a city -state and currently in a capital city, and divided into successive zones consist of a core, buffer zones and marginal areas very broad.

The poles show three specific traits: variation in time, the possibility that several of them share the prevalence at one time or period and the succession of each other due to major disruptions as a result of economic crises and armed conflicts. Despite the changes, the convergence between countries

with similar level of development tends to be more common than among nations with the most extreme disparities.

Within each area you set up a particular structure of regional economic disparities organized around poles, urban, out seven stadiums in Latin American urbanization. Mesoamerica and the Andean region of South America are the major focuses of pre-Columbian civilizations, places the classical period (300-600 AD) as the origin of cities themselves and highlights the historical sequence of centres radiation and key urban centres in the different periods. It further provides that whenever there is an inset, central reorganization takes place, as if global economy could not live without a centre of gravity. In the case of Europe and the areas annexed by her, she operates a centralized around 1380, in Venice. By 1500, there was a sudden and gigantic leap from Venice to Antwerp and then to 1550-1560, around the Mediterranean, but this time in favour of Genoa, finally, to 1590-1610, a transfer to Amsterdam, where the economic hub of the European region will be stabilized for nearly two centuries. Between 1780 and 1815 will move to London, and in 1929, crossed the Atlantic to be in New York. If, in defining a city, we based the criterion for permanent settlement, heterogeneity, differentiation of the population by socioeconomic level, functioning as the centre of an economy geared to the processing of raw materials, redistribution of imported products and dependence on primary production Inca periods (1000-1400 AD) and Aztec (thirteenth century) provides indisputable evidence of the functioning of urban networks consolidated. With the arrival of the Spanish and Portuguese operation is juxtaposed two urban networks, following the consolidation of the conquest and colonial transition to phase, and melt down its centre in the viceroalties most precious mineral wealth, which different from above Aztec and Inca territories. Towards the end of the colony, the preponderance of these territories is weakened and begins to sag for the South establishing closer trade relations with Holland and England.

With its own particularities, the territory of Brazil goes through similar stages, with a predominance of the north in the early days of the colony, which then moved south through the development of precious mineral resources and the need to defend the borders of the areas under Spanish rule.

Despite the different contexts and circumstances of the proceedings in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, the determinants of the existence of these great times, and their transitions are very similar. For Europe with regard to times of transition: in any case, centralization and decentralization appear to be linked, typically, longer spells of the overall economy. Latin American urban networks for periods during which they found a reversal in the centralizing tendencies match, almost always, in times of industrial crisis. In Chile, the first phase of urban decentralization began another period of crisis during the 1890s. In Central America the crisis of the 30s and the difficulties of the interwar period coincided with a general trend towards urban concentration and decrease in welfare levels. Typically, these crises express larger geopolitical changes related to the political and military control of routes and sources of wealth, or are the result of profound technological changes that occur in the transport and communications.

The intensity, the content and pace of change in regional economic disparities vary depending on the transformations of the generators of wealth (natural, social, technological, organizational and infrastructure), the physical networks of support between the parties (design, patterns of change and cost-efficiency) and the geopolitical balance of the moment. in addition, operating amid basic



continuities, profound socio-economic inertia and support structures with a high degree of stability over long periods of time. However, each time presenting a series of dominant poles and cycles of intensification and weakening of regional economic disparities.

## **GROWTH AND TERRITORIAL STRUCTURES**

In the more recent era of capitalism, the secular evolution of disparities between national territories shows some peculiarities. In the midst of this international trend, the phases of divergence and convergence between regions within a country for alternating periods. This alternation of phases of conflict and territorial economic convergence is observed in national experiences analyzed by long-term historical studies. Note that in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean is hard to find well-documented national experience.

In this case refers to the legal and political unity term, according to the organization and designation of each country, the State, province or department. Similar to what happens internationally, during the divergence can coexist widening gap between rich and poor territories with its shortness in the richest group.

The case of the United States, for example, illustrates an economic cycle in regional disparities between 1840 and 1880 there prevails a strong tendency for regional convergence and divergence in the North when combined North and South. Between 1880 and 1900 there was a trend towards convergence stopped between 1900 and 1929. The 1929-70 period registered general convergence. For monitoring of Colombia reaffirms the alternating phases of regional economic convergence and divergence, convergence in the period 1932-1960, no trend between 1960 and 1975 and divergence in the period 1980-1995. The evolution of convergence indicators can signal a rapprochement in the country during these years, especially if you look at what happened after 1932. Comparative studies have consolidated and enrich this idea. In general the idea predominate among researchers agree on the existence of a relationship between economic development and urban concentration, the most obvious regional disparities: economic growth produces greater urban concentration and it reaches a saturation point at middle income per capita, from which there was a decrease in levels of urban concentration.

This cyclical pattern of urban concentration and regional economic disparities associated with significant implications on the interpretation of specific processes in specific countries and regional economic policies. The most significant of these consequences is related to socio-economic significance of increased regional economic disparities (urban concentration) are not necessarily harmful to the development and will be desirable or undesirable depending on the level that they acquire and the time they occur.

On the basis of information linked to economic growth and urban concentration of about 100 countries and five year periods between 1960 and 1995, researchers verified that the level of the best value of welfare increases with income growth to about U.S. \$ 4,900 and subsequently lowered. However, for a wide range (U.S. \$ 1,800-US \$ 8,100), the best value changes little. These measurements put Latin America and the Caribbean in a particularly disadvantageous position because many countries have much higher rates of welfare in this statistic. It is therefore important to

identify the economic processes behind these historical behaviour and try to understand the peculiar socio-economic aspects of the continent that could explain these regional economic peculiarities. ●

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## ¿Por qué el mensaje no llega a nuestros alumnos?

**Título:** ¿Por qué el mensaje no llega a nuestros alumnos?. **Target:** Educación Secundaria Obligatoria. **Asignatura:** Cualquier asignatura. **Autor:** M<sup>a</sup> del Carmen Palacios García, Licenciada en Matemáticas.

**E**s cierto que las cosas han cambiado muchísimo en las últimas décadas, los intereses de nuestros alumnos no son los mismos que los intereses que había cuando nosotros o nuestros padres eran estudiantes. Muchas cosas han cambiado, algunas para mejor como, por ejemplo, que hoy día todo el mundo tiene derecho a la educación y debe ser atendido según sus necesidades, pero tenemos otros problemas que antes no había como es la desmotivación de los alumnos por aprender, la falta de respeto hacia el profesorado y hacia toda persona adulta en general, ahora los alumnos piensan en defender sus derechos pero no cumplen sus deberes y un largo etcétera.

Con el avance tecnológico, la influencia de los medios de comunicación, los tipos de relaciones que se establecen en los alumnos...los intereses de nuestros alumnos han cambiado como decíamos al principio. Por tanto, si todo esto ha cambiado, parece lógico que las formas de enseñar y de acercarnos a los alumnos deban cambiar; debemos buscar otras estrategias que nos permitan motivar a los alumnos.